

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1471

FOR AF ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, ZA

SUBJ: KAUNDA'S VISIT TO U.S.: THE QUESTION OF CUBANS IN ZAMBIA

REF: LUSAKA 774

1. IN PREPARATION OF PAPERS FOR KAUNDA'S U.S. VISIT, BUREAU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER FOLLOWING THOUGHTS ON SUBJECT OF CUBAN PRESENCE IN ZAMBIA, PRESENT AND FUTURE, A SUBJECT WHICH CALLS FOR CAREFUL HANDLING. KAUNDA AND OTHER TOP ZAMBIAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN ADAMANT IN DENYING THAT THERE ARE ANY CUBAN MILITARY IN ZAMBIA, EITHER WITH LYBERATION FORCES OR THE ZAMBIAN DEFENCE FORCE. BEST INDICATIONS ARE THAT APPROXIMATELY 60 TO 80 CUBAN MILITARY ADVISORS ARE OPERATING AT ZAPU CAMPS, ALTHOUGH REPORTS CONTINUOUSLY CIRCULATE PUTTING THE NUMBER HIGHER. IT APPEARS FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT ZAPU IS PRESSING FOR ADDITIONAL CUBAN PERSONNEL ASSISTANCE, AND THE SAME MAY ALSO BE TRUE FOR SWAPO. ZAMBIAN OFFICIALS, THUS FAR AT LEAST, ARE RESISTING THAT PRESSURE.

2. KAUNDA WAS OUTSPOKENLY CRITICAL OF THE CUBAN ROLE IN ANGOLA AND PROBABLY REMAINS SO. HE IS WELL AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF THEINCREASED CUBAN PRESENCE IN ZAMBIA, BOTH

BECAUSE OF THE PROBABLE REACTION FROM THE WEST AS WELL AS

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PURELY INTERNAL REASONS. IN LATTER REGARD WE ARE IMPRESSED BY THE POTENTIAL THREAT OF THE ZAMBIAN ARMY TO KAUNDA'S POSITION OF THE MILITARY SITUATION DETERIORATES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ARMY THEREBY INCREASES. KAUNDA

MAY ALLOW AUGMENTATION OF CUBAN PERSONNEL TRAINING ZAPU SOLDIERS, BUT WOULD PROBABLY FIRMLY RESIST THE USE OF

CUBANS FOR OPERATIONS IN RHODESIA FOR FEAR OF DRAWING SOUTH AFRICA INTO DIRECT INVOLVEMENT. IF STEPPED UP CROSS-BORDER ACTIVITY BY ZAPU RESULTS IN STRONGER OR MORE FREQUENT RHODESIAN RETALIATION AGAINST ZAMBIA, KAUNDA MAY RELUCTANTLY ACCEPT SOME CUBAN ASSISTANCE IN STRENGTHENING ZAMBIAN DEFENSES AGAINST ATTACK. AT THIS POINT THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE LIKLIHOOD OF LARGE-SCALE CUBAN OR SOVIET TROOP INFLUX INTO ZAMBIA IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. KAUNDA MAY RAISE THE CUBAN QUESTION DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT. HE AND SOME OF HIS OFFICIALS HAVE TRIED TO USE THE SPECTER OF INCREASED SOVIET/CUBA INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA TO ENCOURAGE WESTERN ASSISTANCE AND FURTHER ACTION ON THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL FOR RHODESIA. ON THE ONE HAND, THEY IMPLY THAT IF THE WEST DOES NOT ACT TO REMOVE SMITH AND THUS PAVE THE WAY FOR TRUE MAJORITY RULE IN ZIMBABWE, THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS WILL HAVE TO BE ASKED TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE IN MATERIAL AND MANPOWER. ON THE OTHER HAND, KAUNDA AND HIS OFFICERS ACCUSE THE WEST OF USING THE

SOVIET/CUBAN BOGEYMAN AS A CONVENIENT EXCUSE FOR A REACTIONARY STANCE. KAUNDA MAY USE THESE ARGUMENTS IN AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN GREATER U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR ZAMBIA.

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